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Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council

Agenda - December 2001

There will be a meeting of the community council at 7pm on Monday 3rd December in the Burgh Chambers of the Town Hall, Queen's Gardens. There will be a short break at about 8pm during which the 200 Club draw will be made.

0. Cooption of Youth Member

[Nov 9.3.2.] Archie Strachan to introduce David Reed, Convenor of Youth Liaison Committee

1. Attendance

2. Minutes of November 2001

(read for accuracy in matters of substance - harangue the secretary for minor (spelling etc) errors outwith the meeting)

3. Presentations

(For anyone wishing to address the meeting on a matter relevant to St Andrews. Please contact the Secretary or Chair before the meeting. Priority will be given to those who have been invited to speak or have given advance notice).

3.1. Town Library

Iain Whitelaw of Fife Council Community Services to update us on developments since the summer.

4. Fife Councillors

4.1. Frances Melville (West)

4.2. Sheila Hill (South)

4.3. Jane Ann Liston (South East)

4.4. Bill Brooks (Central)

5. Planning Committee Report

6. Matters Arising from previous meetings

6.1. Bandstand Concerts

[Nov 7.2.2.]

6.2. Youth Liaison Committee

Appendix D

For consideration of Council

The appointment of a second councillor to the Youth Liaison Committee.

6.3. Kinnessburn Public Meeting

This has been arranged for 7.30pm Thursday 6th December 2001 in the Burgh Chambers. We have confirmations from Fife Council's Cleansing and Waste Management Service (Roddy Mann), Community Services (Jim Hooton) and East of Scotland Water (Jim Falconer) that they will be present.

SEPA have said that they can only attend meetings in normal office hours but summarise their position:

"...SEPA have no current plans to recommend the removal of vegetation or plants from the aforementioned area of the Kinness Burn as this would have a detrimental impact upon the aquatic ecosystem. I understand that Fife Council do not consider the vegetation to pose a flooding risk. Fife Council can remove the vegetation if they so deem, but this would be in contravention of the environmental advice given by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Thus, any responsibility for environmental harm would lie squarely with Fife Council."

6.x. Other Matters Arising?

7. New Business

New business should be notified to the secretary in advance for inclusion in the agenda, otherwise it can be taken under AOCB

7.1. Golden Jubilee

8. Reports from Officers

8.1. Chair

8.2. Treasurer

8.3. Secretary

8.3.1. Meetings

- next year's meetings have been booked on our regular cycle. The first meeting of 2002 will be 7th January.

9. Reports from Committees

Written reports are required by terms of the Scheme for Community Councils

9.1. Publicity

Appendix B

9.x Other committees and Special Representatives' reports

10. Any Other Competent Business

Please notify Secretary/Chair of items before the start of the meeting. Given that the end of the meeting is often taken in something of a rush unless items are truly urgent it might be better to submit them for next meeting's New Business

Appendix A - Further Bulletin responses

Total replies received(11 slips, 1 email)

Latest point raised:

- There is a need for lifeguards able to rescue swimmers in grave and imminent danger requiring immediate assistance close inshore, but out of reach. At present this need is unfulfilled.
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Appendix B - Publicity Committee

19.11.01, Fife Council Meeting Room, St Mary's Place

Present: Kenneth Fraser, Murdo Macdonald, Donald Macgregor, Frank Riddell, Penelope Uprichard.

Please note: the person in **bold** is asked to take the relevant action.

1. Apologies: Lindsay Murray, Chris Lesurf
2. Donald Macgregor was elected chairman.
3. Matters raised by Pete Lindsay were intimated re (i) printing; (ii) Burgh Chambers portraits (see item 4);(iii) Bulletin (see item 5);(iv) membership of committee (see above).
4. It was agreed after discussion that (i) **DM** would obtain the Dr Gilchrist text from Pete Lindsay; (ii) **FR** would contact Paul Marshall (Halls) re photographing the portraits, with a view to incorporating small photos of the portraits in a leaflet to be published in the spring/summer of 2002. (iii)**FR** was asked also to enquire which pictures (including the two 'railway poster' pictures) are originals, and (iv) to ask if the CC might provide texts about each picture for the information of visitors and others interested (who might include Fife Council and the Tourist Board).
5. **FR**'s offer to continue as editor was gratefully accepted. It was agreed that (i) copy for the next Bulletin would be sought from **CC members** at CC meeting on 3 December, with a deadline of 17 December (by e-mail to Frank Riddell if possible); (ii) the Bulletin would consist of 2 sides of A4 plus an extra sheet giving list of CC members plus contact details, and would be distributed as before with The Fife Leader in mid-January (target date); (iii) there was ample material for the space available; (iv) **FR and DM** would agree copy, with input from **MM**, before submission to printer.
6. A-Boards: **DM** was asked to contact Pete Lindsay re purchase of these, which had been agreed by previous committee. (The A-Boards will not obstruct footpaths but will be used beside entrances to CC exhibitions etc.)
7. CC Notice Boards: **DM** was asked to discuss use and updating of these with Pete Lindsay.
8. The next meeting was fixed for Monday 17 December, 7.30, St Mary's Place.

The meeting finished at 8.25.

Appendix C - CGF correspondence

To Brian Lawrie, Head of Finance Service

I write on behalf of the community council to raise our concerns about the state of the St Andrews Common Good Fund.

It has been the normal practice of Fife Council to seek the advice of this community council on grants made from the St Andrews Common Good Fund, a practice that we welcome as involving the community more in the use of what should be a definitive community resource.

Since the unilateral decision of Fife Council to take relatively large amounts of money from the CGF to support loans to the Byre Theatre, an action that fell regrettably short of previous standards of meaningful consultation, we have been concerned by the lack of information on how much money is now available in the fund.

The latest statement that is available to us, received in October with the papers for an application, shows that expenditure exceeds income by over £10,000. There are several applications noted as pending, potentially for large grants. It is noted that the income expected from the Lammas Market is likely to be reduced. We are also aware that there are proposals under consideration that will remove the rental income from the Children's Library.

This situation causes us some concern.

We fear the CGF will not be able to support the causes that it traditionally has; we understand that some applicants are now being advised to seek alternative sources of funding.

We were reassured at our November 5th meeting by Cllr Frances Melville and Cllr Jane Ann Liston that this statement does not reflect the true picture of the health of the CGF as there are various items of income that have not yet been paid. If the CGF has not yet received expected income due to it from other Fife Council sources has the CGF lost interest income, and will this be made up? The Councillor advised we contact Finance Service for better information.

We would very much appreciate a full and accurate statement of the position and prospects of the CGF. We would welcome a statement that Fife Council is not draining dry the St Andrews Common Good Fund, as it at first appears from the figures before us.

Until recently the CGF has been a model of local consultation by Fife Council over a community resource. We hope to see it restored to that position.

From Brian Lawrie, Head of Finance Service

I have referred this matter to Geoff McDonald, Area Finance Manager, based in Cupar to provide the necessary details and reassurances to you as he deals with the financial administration of the East Area common good and trust funds. He will provide a detailed statement but I am aware that one of the reasons for not being able to provide the income earned is that detail is still awaited from the fund managers.

In advance of Mr McDonald's reply I can assure you that the stewardship of such funds is taken very seriously and there is absolutely no intention to "drain the fund dry".

I trust that once you receive the detailed analysis this will allay your concerns.

From Geoff McDonald

As promised I now enclose a fuller answer to your email below.

As you will be aware from your discussions with Councillors Melville and Liston the statement

presented to your Community Council Meeting did not show the whole picture.

At the start of the Financial Year, the St Andrews Common Good had the following balances excluding property:

	£
Equity Investment Pool	67,356.85
Bond Investment Pool	88,140.78
Cash held in Fife Council Loans Fund	51,461.36

The first two of these funds are invested with our Fund Managers, Hendersons and it is anticipated they will yield approximately 2.7% and 5.75%. The cash held in the Loans Fund will generate approximately 4%.

Accordingly it is anticipated the above sums will generate income of approximately £8,000.

At the same time the St Andrews Common Good will receive income of £13,000 from the Library and approximately £14,000 from the Lammas Market once all costs are met. This gives a total estimated income of £35,000.

At the same time the Donald and Margaret Ross Bequest had the following balances at the start of the year:

	£
Bond Investment Pool	144,235.00
Cash held in Fife Council Loans Fund	19,969.05

It is anticipated the above sums will generate approximately £8,000 which will be transferred to the Common Good giving a combined income of some £43,000. After taking account of the expenditure for the Byre Theatre this should leave in the order of £15,000 free to be allocated.

I would of course add a caution about the above figures, which are based on estimated income. However, the Common Good and the Donald and Margaret Ross Bequest hold sufficient cash balances at present to weather reduced income over a year or two.

I trust the above reassures you that continuing efforts are made to maximise the income earned by the investments and ensure that between income earned and cash balances there will always be sufficient resources available without eroding the capital balance.

Appendix D - Youth Liaison Committee Report

For information of Council

The remit of the Youth Liaison Committee is

- (i) to act as a communication link between the youth of St Andrews and the Community Council and
- (ii) to ascertain the views of the young people of St Andrews and communicate these views to the Community Council.

The basic aims in the setting up of the Youth Liaison Committee was to promote community participation within the youth of the town, promote a sense of community spirit and encourage young people to take an active interest in the business of the Community Council.

The Youth Liaison Committee comprises two members of Council and six youth members.

For consideration of Council:

The appointment of a second councillor to the Youth Liaison Committee.
